

DELAWARE DIVISION OF YOUTH  
REHABILITATIVE SERVICESCOVID-19  
RESPONSEA Guide for Youth and  
Families

## KEY ACTION ITEMS

COVID-19 PROTOCOL,  
PRECAUTIONS14-DAY QUARANTINE OF  
YOUTH TO ENSURE THEIR  
HEALTHNEW CLEANING TOOLS -  
DISINFECTANT FOGGERCONTINUATION OF KEY  
PROGRAMMINGAdapting in a COVID-19  
World

As Delaware faces an unprecedented pandemic, the **Delaware Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS)** has made key adjustments in order to continue to support our youth and families. YRS manages Level IV and V secure care facilities including **New Castle County Detention Center, Stevenson House Detention Center, Ferris School and The Residential Cottages**. Below you will find information on our preventative and forward-thinking efforts.

We have created and implemented cleaning protocol consistent with CDC guidelines and Delaware Division of Public Health recommendations for the safety of our staff and youth in secure care. That includes:

- Training on proper cleaning techniques and screening protocols
- Daily temperature checks for youth and staff.
- Staff must wear face coverings and youth have been provided face coverings as well
- Youth are quarantined for 14 days upon entry to a secure care facility and monitored for symptoms
- Special COVID-19 care units have been established in order to care for positive youth
- COVID-19 testing is available to all youth and all staff. Guardians of youth need to sign off on any testing

YRS has also purchased two disinfectant foggers to rotate between our facilities to deep-clean. We wanted to share these initiatives to show how we have adapted in this "new normal" while never losing sight of our commitment to your child's health and rehabilitative journey.

These are challenging times, but together we will get through this.



**Families, please be prepared to take the following precautions.** You will be asked screening questions for COVID-19 symptoms prior to and upon entry to the facility and have temperatures taken at the facility. Masks will be required at all times during the visits. Social distancing guidelines will be in place and visitation is limited to two visitors at a time. In an effort to sanitize between visits, visits will be limited to 45 minutes. YRS asks that visitors who display COVID-19 symptoms or test positive within 14 days of their visit contact the facility to inform them of the symptoms or positive test.

It is difficult being separated from your loved ones during this time, so we appreciate the families of our youth working with us. Additionally, youth continue to have access to mental health care, and this continues to be a priority of ours during this time. Please reach out to your child during this time, and we will make every effort to accommodate requests. As a reminder for all of us, please remember to take care of yourself and support connections with your loved ones.

## For the Youth

Staff in our facilities are working diligently to ensure youth stay busy with productive activities as well as coordinating visits - both in person and virtual - to make sure they stay in contact with their loved ones. There are various precautions in place for visits. Families must schedule visits in advance as space is limited.

**Families should directly contact the facility their child resides in to schedule visits.**

**Call:**

- New Castle County Detention Center - 302-633-3100
- Ferris School - 302-993-3800
- Residential Cottages (Snowden, Mowlds, Grace) - 302-633-2622
- Stevenson House Detention Center - 302-424-8100

### Mental Health Check-In



#### Take a breath of fresh air.

Taking a walk and enjoying the outdoors is a perfect way to ground yourself during this unusual time. Practice social distancing, please!



#### Take care of yourself.

If you are feeling anxious, download a meditation or mindfulness app. Taking time to journal, exercise, and eating healthy foods are all gentle ways to give yourself some much needed care.



#### Take regular breaks from media.

It can feel overwhelming to constantly read or watch news and social media updates. Take a media break and engage in self-care activities like coloring books, watching a movie, playing with your pets, reading, or puzzles.



#### Call or text a loved one.

Reach out and connect to someone you love with a text, video or phone call. Just remember: we are all navigating this situation together.

**Most of all, remember that you are resilient.**

[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted Delaware families in so many ways. We know that our youth in particular are most vulnerable to the effects of such a monumental event. That's why we have taken immediate action to protect our youth and staff, and work to ensure things run as "business as usual" as they can. We appreciate the understanding and compassion of our families. Please know we are always here to listen to any concerns. For a short time, your children become our children, and we do not take that responsibility lightly.

**John Stevenson, Director, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services**